

AMERICAN **UFO** COMMITTEE REVIEW

Vol. 1, No. 1

March, 1964



THE KYW PHOTO
See page 12 for details

Editorial Staff:
Allen Greenfield
Dale Rettig
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NOTES

Members: Your membership cards for 1964 are enclosed with this issue.

All members are invited to attend the Congress of Scientific UFOlogists to be held at Cleveland, Ohio, during June of this year. A forthcoming bulletin to all members will contain full details as to exact time and place. Contributions for the Congress are welcome, as AUFOC is co-sponsoring the event, in cooperation with the Cleveland UFOlogy Project.

David Halperin, who has a review of the Menzel-Boyd book in this issue, has taken over the New Jersey Association of Aerial Phenomena from Ed. Babcock Jr. Mr. Halperin publishes a very nicely done mimeographed publication which is a "must" for all serious UFOlogists. Interested readers may write him at: 186 Lakeside Drive, Levittown, Pennsylvania 19054.

The American UFO Committee Review is published twice yearly by the American UFO Committee, a non-profit UFO research organization. Subscription through membership. Editorial staff: Allen Greenfield, Dale Rettig, Rick Hilberg. Canadian representative: Wayne Marcaccini. No material herein may be reprinted without the consent of the American UFO Committee. Membership: \$2.00 per year.

INTRODUCTION:
THE AMERICAN UFO COMMITTEE

On November 9, 1963, the United Research Council of UFOlogy and the Illinois Aerial Phenomena Agency merged to form the American UFO Committee. The Committee has approximately 1,000 members in all 50 states and several overseas countries.

The Committee is administered by three executive directors. They are Mr. Allen Greenfield, Mr. Dale Rettig, and Mr. Rick Hilberg. Mr. Greenfield is in charge of the Editorial and Operations Branch, Mr. Rettig will handle Communications and Publications, and Mr. Hilberg is in charge of Public Relations and Education, which includes press releases, radio programs, et cetera.

To conduct a serious, conservative inquiry into the UFO subject is one of the Committee's main purposes. Another purpose is that of public education in regard to the UFO. This will be accomplished through reports to the public, press releases, radio programs. And finally, to preserve ufology as a scientific movement, as expressed in our editorial (page 4).

AUFOC will maintain a policy of sensible open-mindedness and will apply the true scientific method towards the UFO. The Committee's policy towards the so-called "contactee" is that no concrete evidence has yet been offered by any of these individuals to substantiate their claims of contact with extra-terrestrial beings.

Membership in the Committee may be obtained by paying the entrance fee of \$2.00 per year. This includes a subscription for two issues of the REVIEW which is published every March and September. Also, frequent offset bulletins consisting of 4-8 pages will be issued to members at no extra cost. These bulletins, like the REVIEW, will be of extremely high quality, both in content and format.

PLEASE NOTE: All former members of URCU and IAPA (likewise ROAP, UFORC, USCO, HRS, CORAP) are now members of AUFOC. Problems have arisen involving renewal dates. Therefore, all members will be sent a renewal notice when it is time for that member to renew his membership in AUFOC.

Address all inquiries to our Communications Office In Illinois. If necessary, your letter will be forwarded to the proper office to insure all members of getting replies to their letters.

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Editorial:

TO PRESERVE A MOVEMENT

by Allen Greenfield

It is no secret that over the past three years or so UFOlogy as a scientific movement has been in decline. The reasons for this are obvious to anyone active in the field, but to sum up briefly, the causes are (1) Continued re-hash of the same issues; no fresh approach; (2) Failure of UFOlogy to attract congressional attention; and (3) Continued efforts to discredit the subject by the news media, Air Force, etc.

To the "stalwart few" who remain active in scientific UFO circles, it is most alarming to see long-time scientific publications and groups going to the so-called "lunatic fringe" for material, in an effort to keep interest alive. This trend, while it might stall the end of UFOlogy for a short time, could potentially pervert the subject to the point where it would be only a crackpot farce, not even worthy of preservation!! Needless to say, we sincerely hope this trend will reverse itself before it becomes too late.

In the meantime the two great traditional bulkwarts of scientific UFO research-NICAP and APRO-have been inactive in the field on a national/international front of late, and have allowed the profiteers to come out into the open.

Obviously, the status quo must be changed if scientific research is to continue, and in my opinion it must continue, for the consequences of neglect could, and probably would, be too great to risk facing.

Of the "big three" in scientific UFOlogy, AUFOC is the newest and smallest. With about 1,000 members and a new and untried publication, we find ourselves thrust into the rather dubious position of leadership in a sinking UFO rowboat. It is my personal opinion that the new AUFOC has only one mission: to preserve ufology as a scientific movement, remove it from the 'defensive' list, and press forward on the attack.

It is a tall order and an ambitious project for a new group. It can only be done if we get the complete cooperation of our members. Translated into action, this means that you should endeavor to bring us new members, renew your own whether it's due or not, write us often, and generally keep active in UFO circles. Actually, this doesn't mean very much effort on your part, yet these things alone could put UFOlogy back on its feet within a year.

Another thing: You could attend the Congress of Scientific UFOlogists in Cleveland, Ohio on June 15th. This will be of benefit to you personally as well as to the UFOlogy movement. There's no cost (though donations are gratefully accepted), except your own personal expenses: transportation; housing; food; etc, which shouldn't cost very much for the day and a half of the Congress. If you attend you'll be able to meet many of your fellow UFOlogists from all over the world, and also hear informative discussions on the UFO issue. There'll be a forum if you have something to say, too. It will be well worth your efforts to attend.

That's about it for this issue. Twice each year we'll bring you one of the best publications UFOlogy has to offer. We're fighting with all our power to put UFOlogy back in the forefront of world attention. We're doing everything we can. The rest is up to you and only you.

AERODYNAMICS OF THE DISC

Propulsion of the disc-type ufo

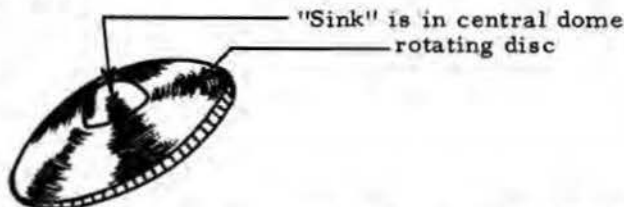
by James Kemple

The purpose of this article is to discuss the propulsion system of the saucer-shaped UFO. Probably 99% of all UFO researchers agree that the disc-type UFO (as distinct from rocket type, etc.) is powered by some sort of electromagnetic field which controls gravity. The disc's characteristics rule out all common propulsion systems: piston, jet, etc. How can the incredible performance of the saucers be explained? By utilizing a force field to control gravity. Canceling out the effect of gravity enables the saucers to perform as they do, and a protective force-field to cut down on drag, etc. further explains their unbelievable maneuvers. A force-field surrounding a swiftly moving saucer protects it from air friction and drag, and repels any object which might collide with the saucer. Control of gravity permits the discs to hover, to ascent vertically, and to make sharp turns despite the inertia of the speeding ship.

Evidence of the existence of a force-field can be found in many UFO reports describing jittering compass needles, stalled car engines, radio and television interference, and a 'tingling' sensation felt by witnesses.

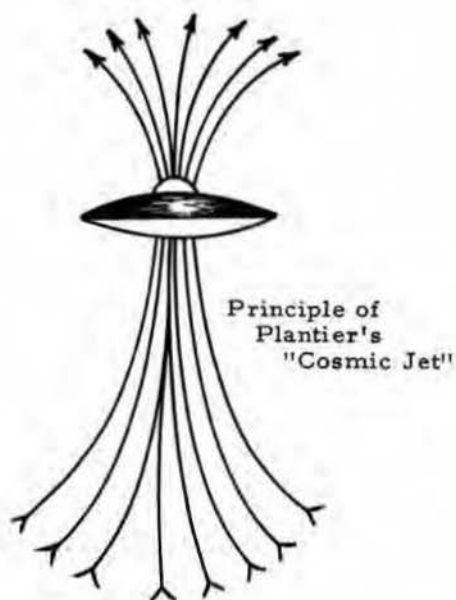
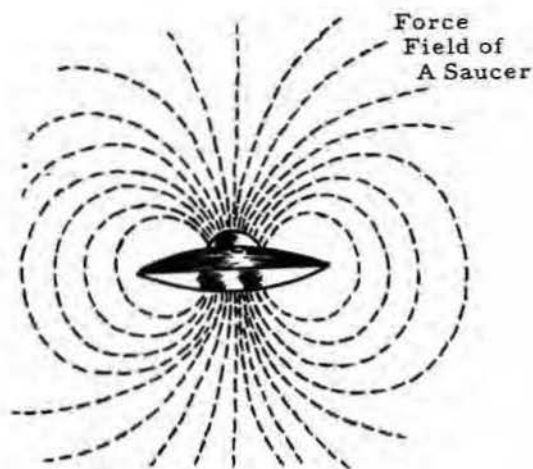
How do the "saucer operators" produce a force-field strong enough to support and propel their craft? After much study, seeking an answer to this question, I have found three plausible methods to explain how it is done: (1) "Magnetic Sink" (2) Cosmic Energy, and (3) Anti-matter. I will now explain these three methods to see if you agree with me.

The "Magnetic Sink" principle was described to the well-known UFO researcher Donald E. Keyhoe by the late Wilbur B. Smith, Engineer in Charge of the Canadian UFO Investigation "Project Magnet." A "Magnetic Sink" is a region into which the neutrino flux of the Earth's magnetic field flows at a controlled rate. The equipment necessary to produce a "Sink," according to Dr. Smith, is probably located in the central dome (see illustration) of the saucer.



When in operation, the "Sink" causes the surrounding magnetic field to collapse. The collapsing field induces an electrical current in the metallic disc around the "Sink" mechanism. The current circulating in the disc reacts with the magnetic field that induced it and produces a force with a substantial vertical component. Rotation of the disc causes eddy currents to form. The reaction force and the interaction between the main field and the eddy currents are what support and propel the saucer. Thus, the saucer-shape of this type of spaceship is purely functional and is the most suitable design to take advantage of this propulsion system.

Not only does the "Sink" produce a force-field around the saucer, but the collapsing magnetic field also gives up great amounts of electrical energy. This huge amount of electrical power might be the power source that causes the "Sink" mechanism to operate. With the "Sink" producing its own power source the saucer will never run out of fuel and will operate continuously. However, there is some evidence that the flying discs have accidents (some UFOs have been observed to flutter suddenly and then explode.) These accidents can be explained by the wearing out of an important component in the "Sink" mechanism. Even though these accidents are fatal to the occupants of the ill-fated saucer, I think they are in a way reassuring. These accidents show that the "saucer operators," like humans, are capable of making errors.



The second propulsion system, the liberation of "Cosmic Energy," was developed by a French Army Lieutenant named Plantier. The French UFO Researcher Aime' Michel gave a complete and detailed description of Lt. Plantier's "Cosmic Energy Liberating Engine" in his book, The Truth About Flying Saucers. Briefly, Plantier believes the ideal spaceship (he did not know about UFOs when developing his theory) should be powered by a force-field produced by liberation of cosmic energy which he believes is distributed throughout space.

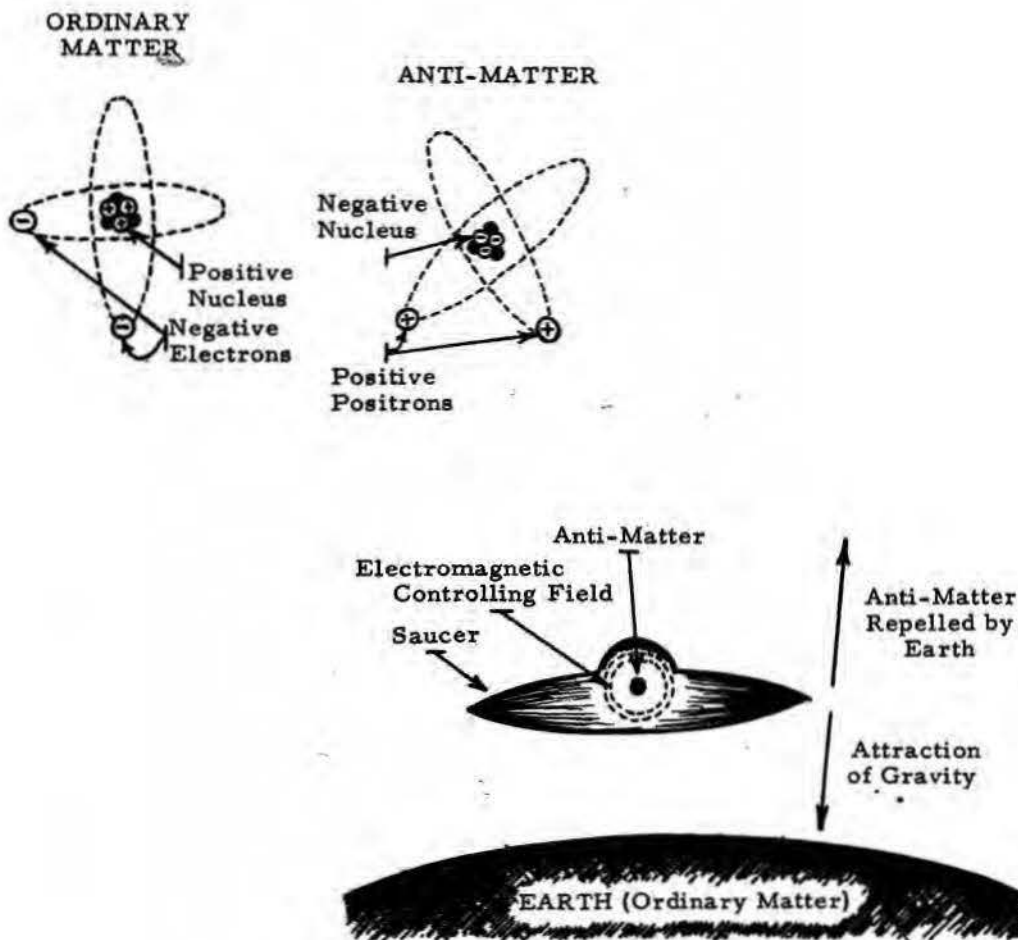
The existence of cosmic energy in space has been confirmed by many scientists in the last decade. As proof, I call your attention to an article in Popular Mechanics, September, 1959, entitled "An Eye On Space" by Dr. Dan Q. Posin, Professor of Physics, DePaul University. Prof. Posin states that "empty" space is alive and hopping with energy. It has been detected in such forms as magnetic fields, etc. Prof. Posin says that this energy is extractable and that mankind will soon make use of it to power spaceships on extended space flights.

Lt. Plantier came to the conclusion that the best design of a vehicle to take advantage of the liberation of "cosmic energy" is that of a disc-shaped craft with a diameter ten times its thickness and a hemispherical center cabin. This is identical with many close-range UFO reports.

Plantier's spaceship would use an engine that would liberate cosmic energy in much the same way that Nature creates Primary Cosmic Rays. When a high energy cosmic ray enters our atmosphere and strikes a molecule of air, it is scattered into a shower of low-energy cosmic rays. These rays repeat the process until, instead of a single high-energy cosmic ray striking the earth's surface, we have a shower of dozens of low-energy cosmic rays. This would be utilized in Plantier's engine to radiate a particle wave fluid moving at near-light speed through the engine in the direction of propulsion. The example Plantier gives of how this cosmic jet supports the craft is somewhat in the fashion of a ping-pong ball supported by a jet of water.

The third method of propulsion makes use of anti-matter as a "gravity shield." Anti-matter has been discovered only in recent years. Atoms of ordinary matter are made up of nuclei of positively-charged protons and neutral neutrons with negatively-charged electrons encircling the nuclei. Atoms of anti-matter are just the opposite. When anti-matter comes into contact with ordinary matter, the result is an explosion more violent than any atomic bomb. The famous 'meteorite' that exploded in Siberia in 1908 is believed by some scientists to have been composed of anti-matter. The "saucer operators" might control anti-matter by using extremely powerful electromagnetic fields in a vacuum. Anti-matter would make a good anti-gravity device but does not produce a force-field to protect the vehicle. The protective force field must be developed in another way.

Which method or combination of methods do you think propel the saucers? Please send your opinions in to this periodical, 2007 Spruce Drive, Glenview, Illinois.



"SPHERES" FALL IN AUSTRALIA

Three times during 1963 strange metal spheres, which seemingly fell from space, have been discovered on the Australian continent.

The first "sphere" was found in a desolate part of Bouilla Station, New South Wales, on April 8. A Mr. J. McClure, who discovered the sphere, said no one had been in the area for 50 years. Reports stated that scientists failed to open the sphere with files and hacksaws. It weighed 12 lbs. and was 14-in. in diameter.

NICAP, in its June-Sept. issue of the UFO Investigator, gives the information that the Australian Minister of Supply, Mr. Allen Fairhall, told the House of Representatives that the sphere had been identified as part of a space vehicle.

The second sphere fell on June 28, approximately 60 miles from where the first ball fell. This sphere weighed 18 lbs. and was 16 inches in diameter, also made of the same odd metal.

On July 12, the third sphere fell, near Muloorina, in South Australia. This one was six inches in diameter and had some kind of an opening in it.

Significantly, both the United States and the U.S.S.R. have denied any connection with the spheres from space. AUFOC agrees with NICAP that the highly technical work and cost involved seem to rule out the possibility of a hoax. As far as we can determine, the Australian government has been silent on what they found upon opening spheres. AUFOC has contacted the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society in Melbourne, asking for further developments. The information acquired will be reported in our next issue.

UFO SIGHTINGS CAUSE ELECTROMAGNETIC EFFECTS

Two sightings which occurred during June, 1963, may be added to the list of "E-M effects" associated with UFOs.

The first sighting comes from Richmond, California. At 9:53 p.m. on June 14, a group of boys and adults observed a UFO move slowly in the sky from south to north. The object was reported to be glowing brightly and very high in altitude. Witnesses said their radio and television sets acted erratically from some type of interference during the time the object was seen.

South Africa is the location of the next sighting. A Durban woman along with two other adults sighted a light coming towards them. When the light was about 250 yards away and 100 yards in altitude it came to a stop. In the glow of the object's own light the witnesses saw its circular shape and a dome on top. Although the object remained stationary for 10 minutes the witnesses could hear no sound, but they all felt the sensation of being charged with electricity and even feeling semi-paralyzed.

A satellite could have caused the first sighting, but that would not account for the radio and TV interference. The South Africa sighting we have no answer for.

LUNAR ERUPTIONS

Twice in past months astronomers have again seen a strange phenomenon on the moon, this time in the form of what seemed to be eruptions from the lunar surface.

The first observation occurred on October 29. Two selenographers of the Air Force's Aeronautical Chart and Information Center, Edward M. Barr and James C. Greenacre, were mapping the area near the crater Aristarchus when they first noticed the phenomenon. Greenacre commented that he could "scarcely believe my eyes" when he saw two bright red spots to the northwest of the crater and a third just inside the crater's rim. The red spots, described by Barr and Greenacre as being "all light ruby red in color," were about two miles in diameter. The observation took place through the 24-inch telescope at Lowell Observatory near Flagstaff, Arizona.

The spots were visible only for about 20 minutes, which consequently gave Barr and Greenacre no time to ready photographic apparatus. Dr. John S. Hall, the director of the observatory, reported the phenomenon to astronomical authorities and ordered a close watch on Aristarchus. This directive was rewarded by Dr. Hall and four other observers seeing a reddish area, about 12 miles long and 1-1/2 miles wide, inside the rim, the precise place where one of the spots had been seen by Barr and Greenacre. This observation took place on November 27.

Dr. Hall telephoned nearby Perkins Observatory of Ohio State University, which has a 69-inch reflector. Dr. Hall told Peter A. Boyce, who was at the controls of the telescope at Perkins, about the phenomenon near Aristarchus. Boyce quickly spotted the reddish region.

Readers may recall the O'Niell Moon Bridge, the "domes" and white spots seen on the moon's surface in past years. This latest observation adds more evidence that our nearest neighbor in space is not a completely dead world, but still far from supporting life as we know it.

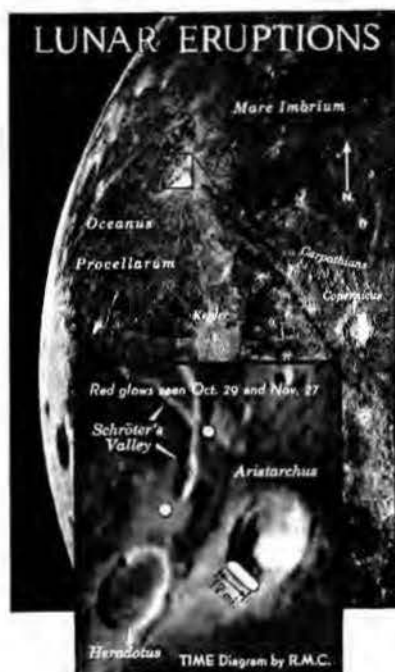


Photo shows location of the recent "lunar eruptions". Photo reproduced from TIME magazine, by permission.

THE WORLD OF FLYING SAUCERS

TWO REVIEWS - TWO VIEWS

The World of Flying Saucers by Dr. Donald H. Menzel and Mrs. Lyle G. Boyd (Doubleday, 1963) Reviewed by Louis Trifon: This book attempts to show that flying saucers are all misinterpreted phenomena with natural causes. It falls short of this goal, however, because it disproves nothing. What Menzel, the senior author, has done successfully is to show how various natural phenomena may be mistaken for flying saucers, and gives various illustrations to prove his point. His analysis of the Mantell case is very interesting and I am now convinced that Mantell chased a skyhook balloon. But I am not convinced about many other sightings which Menzel has tried to explain away.

His train of thought seems to be: "Every sighting must have a natural cause because I don't believe in spaceships." And believe me, some of his 'natural causes' are way out. Even the Air Force won't take them. In many cases, Menzel ignores many important details so that he can come up with the explanation.

To begin with, his source of sighting details in many cases is the Air Force, which is notorious for "doctoring up" the facts. In the Chiles-Whitted case Menzel tries to explain the UFO as a meteor, which I would be willing to believe, were it not for the pilots' detailed descriptions and the fact that the UFO pulled up into the clouds, an action not at all consistent with the behavior of meteors. Menzel says the witnesses imagined the details they saw, and the UFO pulling up into the clouds. (How convenient!) There are many other examples of this ignorance technique of Menzel's, but I will not go into them here.

One thing must be mentioned, though. Considering the scientific background of the authors, especially Dr. Menzel, it is disturbing to see so much sarcasm in a book which is supposedly an objective, scientific evaluation of UFOs. Most of the sarcasm is directed towards us 'believers,' or as Menzel calls us, "enthusiasts," "addicts," and "cultists." I need not remind him that the ranks of us "addicts" include such "cultists" as Vice Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter, Ret., former head of the CIA; Rear Admiral Delmer Fahrney, Ret., former Navy missile chief; Hermann Oberth, famed rocket expert; Commander R. W. Percy, USN, Ret., and other obviously "deluded" people.

The basic fallacy of the book is that the authors state their opinions as fact. This is shown by such statements as: "No fact so far determined suggests that a single unidentified flying object has originated outside our own planet." And "Extraterrestrial visitors have not yet arrived, and may never arrive." The authors can prove neither of these statements.

This book does, however, definitely have something to offer. It provides a great deal of technical information on the various phenomena most responsible for UFO sightings. The book's discussion of meteors, inversions, and radar are particularly meritorious. Every serious researcher should be familiar with these things in order to make any intelligent conclusion as to the cause of a particular sighting. There is a very interesting chapter on special effects which deals with sightings with multiple causes involving a state of conditions which may never be duplicated.

Before I end this review, I would like to mention a statement on the back of the book jacket by Major Carl R. Hart, Project Blue Book Information Officer: "It is a pleasure to publicly recognize the substantial contribution by Dr. Menzel and Mrs. Boyd to the growing accumulation of solid scientific knowledge related to unidentified aerial phenomena. As bona fide scientific researchers, Dr. Menzel and Mrs. Boyd have been accorded full access to the Project Blue Book files. . . . Through their efforts several of the old cases in our files have been provided logical solutions that have allowed the case to be removed from the 'unknown' category. As is normal in the scientific community, there are areas of minor disagreement. This we consider a healthy situation and hope it serves to spur our good friends on to greater effort and OTHER INTERESTING BOOKS." (emphasis added) Major Keyhoe would never have been shown the entire Air Force files! In view of the last quoted statement, I would not be surprised if Menzel is just a mouth-piece of the Air Force. Perhaps he is just another link in the conspiracy he so flatly denies. -----Recommended, but not highly.

(Second Review, by David Halperin): Almost exactly a decade after the publication of his debunking classic Flying Saucers (Harvard, 1953), eminent astrophysicist Dr. Donald H. Menzel has produced, in collaboration with science-fiction writer Mrs. Lyle G. Boyd, his second contribution to the lengthy list of complete solutions to the UFO mystery. Prior to its publication, it was eagerly awaited by both buffs and skeptics; now that it is out, it is clear that it is not so much a bad book as an extremely disappointing one.

It does not take a meticulous reading of The World of Flying Saucers to realize that, apart from the basic premise that all UFOs are natural phenomena Dr. Menzel's views have changed almost completely since his 1953 coup. In Flying Saucers Dr. Menzel's opinions were distinctly non-conformist; his explanations often ran directly counter to those of the Air Force, and he debunked the latter with almost as much zest as he did the extraterrestrial theorists. His recent book, however, is hardly more than a partly successful attempt to make the Air Force explanation palatable to both the general public and the scientific community. Apart from a few solutions to UFO cases which were original with him, his chief personal contributions to the skeptic's case in this book are his extensive scientific background and his deft, authoritative literary style -- both of which, one feels, are there merely "to give artistic verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative." (Pooh-bah in The Mikado)

When stripped of their elegant verbal adornments, Dr. Menzel's theories can hardly be called anything other than bald and unconvincing. Obviously, this is not the place to go into an analysis of his "solutions," but their tenor may be judged from his explanation of the Levelland sighting (November 2-3, 1957) as "ball lightning." As in his previous work, he has no scruples about distorting or suppressing pertinent facts to bolster up his theories (compare his account of the Rapid City sighting of August 12, 1953, with that by Captain E. J. Ruppelt), and his description of the Campinas incident (December 13, 1954) is almost totally inaccurate. He lists as the source for many of his most important and controversial facts the Air Force's files at Wright-Patterson. Only rarely, however, does he specify the exact nature of the documents which he is quoting, and, in many cases, there is a strong suspicion that they are no more than filecard summaries. In any case, as these files are, for all practical purposes inaccessible to the general public, it seems quite likely that many of his "facts" are distorted considerably. Needless to say, he refuses to even consider the possibility of official censorship, blandly brushing aside the evidence of Air Force secrecy and inefficiency gathered by NICAP and other civilian groups with the naive remark that such is "unthinkable." His attitude toward these groups is not so much abusive as maddeningly supercilious, referring to them by such terms as "UFO addicts," "saucer enthusiasts," and the like.

On the positive side, there is much to be said for the scientific aspect of Dr. Menzel's book. It is practically a treasure trove of information on unusual but perfectly natural phenomena which can be (and are) easily mistaken for UFOs. It performs the extremely valuable function of removing the stars from the eyes of the over-eager observers and investigators, enabling them to see the hard facts of UFO research all the more clearly. For this reason, and for this reason alone, it belongs in the library of every serious UFO researcher. As a sort of scientific handbook for UFO evaluation, it is excellent. As a solution to the UFO mystery, it is only one more showy fiasco.

"BRIGHT OBJECTS" SIGHTED IN WISCONSIN

Three witnesses in the Rhinelander, Wisconsin area have reported spotting "bright objects" in the sky recently.

The first sighting was made by William Kussman on January 4. Kussman reported seeing a bright object in the sky which was moving in a westerly direction, sometime between 6:50 and 7:15 p. m. on the 4th.

Vince Rosselli notified the sheriff's office reporting he had seen a bright object at 7:10 p. m. on January 6. Rosselli said that the object was moving across the sky in a north to south direction, and that it appeared to come to earth near Rhinelander.

A Mrs. Frank Bartz of Crandon, Wisconsin, reported that on Christmas Day or thereabouts she sighted a bright red object traversing the sky at 9:00 p. m.

THE KYW PHOTOGRAPH

Details on the cover photograph are very few, but it does appear to be authentic. The photo was mailed to radio station KYW in Cleveland, Ohio, some time back. Enclosed with the photo was a short note saying something to the effect of "think you might be interested in this." There was no signature on the note. The letter was postmarked Orville, Ohio. All attempts to contact the photographer and/or sender have failed.

The UFO appears to be definitely a solid object, but enlargements show little detail, as in most UFO photos. The photographer, whoever he was, must have taken the photo in great haste. All that may be determined is that the UFO is over some kind of field, perhaps a farm crop.

THE ANGEL FALLS REPORT

by: Jose' A. Cecin, Chairman,
NICAP - N. Y. Subcommittee

I remember being more than a little apprehensive as the big jet rolled to a stop at Maiquetia Airport, just outside Caracas. The newscasts of the preceding weeks had been alive with reports of Communist terrorist activities in Venezuela. Just the night before my companion, Mr. Anthony Barben, and myself had seen a television news report on the burning by a terrorist group of the Sears, Roebuck & Co. warehouse in Caracas. The Venezuelan government was doing all in its power to curb these activities, but it was an uphill struggle.

The voice of the stewardess snapped me back to reality as she announced that we had arrived at Caracas at 9:30 P. M. local time, and the outside temperature was 96 degrees. The first impression to hit me as I debarked from the plane was the intense humidity. It seemed like being in a Turkish Bath with all your clothes on. I remember that there seemed to be clouds of steam between my clothes and my skin. The Caribbean Sea lay to one side of the airport and lush, green jungle to the other. I noticed a group of men in uniform with rifles in their hands motioning us toward Venezuelan Customs, so we took the hint.

As we checked through immigration we were politely reminded that our Tourist Visas were good only for the limited time specified, and that we were not to conduct any business while in the country. We were also told there was some internal unrest in the nation. Everywhere around the airport we saw men in various different uniforms, armed with rifles and automatic weapons.

We cleared Customs and went through the lobby of the airport toward the exit. Here we were met by a battery of native taxi drivers. In our tense frame of mind, none of them looked too trustworthy, so we decided to rent a car. We discovered later that we would have been better off with one of the "suspicious looking" taxi drivers. The rental attendant was most courteous as he showed us to a new sedan. He even provided us with a nice, clearly illustrated road map, carefully outlining the route for the half hour drive into Caracas. We were soon to curse this lovely road map in rather decisive language, but we trusted the attendant implicitly, and cheerfully mounted our new sedan and drove out of the airport parking lot, confident that we were beating the native taxi drivers out of the outrageous seven dollars they asked for the trip into the city.

Following the directions of our friendly rental agent, we drove onto the wide highway headed toward Caracas. After about five miles we slowed down for a toll booth. The toll collector was wearing a fatigue uniform and had a M-1 Carbine slung over his shoulder precariously. His partner sat sideways on the curb of the toll booth with a sub-machine gun on his knees and a cigar in his mouth. My hand might have trembled a little as I handed him the money for the toll. I tried to ease the tension a bit by making a crack to Tony about efficient law enforcement. It was a bad joke and neither of us laughed. The guard handed me my change, but I shoved it into my pocket without counting it. I couldn't see arguing if he was short, anyway. I stepped on the gas and the car roared. So did the guards. After some embarrassing clanking noises, I managed to put the car in gear and again stepped on the gas. This time we moved away. The guards were still laughing. One of them had a gold tooth in the center of his mouth, and his laugh shared with me for several miles.

We had traveled about ten minutes since the toll booth, and the way the local gentry was maneuvering caused a remark from Tony about driving down here being a cross between Indianapolis and the scooter cars at Coney Island. Suddenly a truck came up behind us, going like blazes. We almost cracked up trying to get out of his way. As he passed us we saw about a dozen men in army uniforms on the platform of the open bodied truck. Their weapons gleamed in the moonlight as they flashed by us. We had begun to wonder about our decision to rent the car already.

A few miles farther down, our nice big highway disappeared as we entered the first of several small towns on the route. It seems that Venezuelan highways are made up of a system of roads going in one direction, rather than being one specific road as we know highways. Our road map showed the road continuing, despite the fact that the road we were now on was like a back alley. There were no signs to turn off, so we pushed on straight ahead. The neighborhood seemed a little short of first class, so we elected not to stop, if possible. Lively latin music blared out of a bar at us from one side of the road. As we passed the bar, about twenty men in sports shirts, khaki pants and army helmets, brandishing a variety of weapons raced out of the bar toward us. Quite softly, and out of the corner of my mouth I told Tony "for God's sake, don't say anything in English". My fears were unfounded, as the men ran right past us and piled into another truck like the one which passed us on the highway. The truck disappeared into a cloud of dust and my pulse almost returned to normal. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed Tony mopping his brow. We decided to stop in a gas station and, since I speak Spanish, I asked for directions. The owner was very helpful and told me exactly how to get back to the highway to Caracas--I was on it! We kept going, and after a short time came to a better section of the town. Here there were beautiful homes and even street lights. I decided to stop under a street light near the nicest house on the block and try to decode the road map again. I parked the car and turned on the dome light. As I began to unfold the map, Tony nudged me and said "Joe, I think that guy wants to talk to us". I didn't see anyone, so I thought Tony was kidding, and continued to try and make sense out of the map. Tony nudged me again and said "Get moving, Joe and fast" I could tell by the look on his face he wasn't kidding this time. I bent over to look out of his window and caught my breath. On the roof of the house was a man in a fatigue uniform, pointing a carbine right at me. As I looked I heard the distinct clank of a carbine bolt being slammed home. Our friend waved at us to move on with the barrel of the gun, so we proceeded to do so, with much haste. We later learned this was a National Guardsman protecting the house of a government official against a possible terrorist bomb attack.

After considerable confusion and much anxiety, we finally saw the lights of the Tamanaco hotel ahead. The approach to the main entrance goes by a small delivery entrance. As we passed it we noticed a man in the hotel uniform, sitting in the doorway with a shotgun on his lap. The hotel parking lot was well lit, and had a high tower in the center, from which a guard watched the cars of the guests. We wearily checked in and went up to our room to try and get some rest. Just before drifting off into an exhausted sleep, we resolved to turn in the car in the morning.

The next morning we got up late, had a light breakfast and called Dr. Askold Ladonko, NICAP Adviser in Caracas, to arrange a screening of the Angel Falls UFO film that evening. Then we went and checked in the rented car. We ate lunch and had some time to admire the beautiful scenery from the hotel balcony.

The city of Caracas lies in a valley between two jungle mountain ranges. The hotel was situated high on one side, overlooking the entire city and the other mountains. The view was spectacular. The city was set like a white jewel against the lush green of the jungle. We looked for a long while, then shot a few pictures and went to the restaurant to have a leisurely dinner.

After dinner we took a taxi to the home of Dr. Ladonko. He lives in a suburb of Caracas known as Bolieta. Ladonko was waiting for us when we arrived. As he introduced us to his family, I noticed several excellent oil paintings of the lunar landscape on the wall, and quite a bit of electronic gear, including an oscilloscope, over in one corner of the room. It seemed too good to be true that we were at last to see the film, and a creeping doubt that it might be a fake came over me.

After a short wait, Ali Rafael Diaz, the man who photographed the alleged UFO incident, arrived in the company of Horacio Gozalez-Ganteaume, a prominent UFO researcher in Venezuela and author of the book "Flying Saucers Over Venezuela". After a cordial round of introductions, we proceeded to the business at hand and set up the projector and screen. I remember thinking, as Diaz took a small roll of film from his pocket, that we had come a long way to see that few feet of celluloid. Dr. Ladonko turned off the lights and Diaz started the projector. I turned on the portable tape recorder so I could read my comments onto the tape as I watched the film, and then riveted my eyes to the screen.

The film, in color, began with a few scenes of the Diaz family at the airport, followed by some aerial views of the jungle terrain near a coast. The next scene is at the airport at Ciudad Bolivar, showing the terminal and the sightseeing DC-3. We see views of the jungle near Auyantepuy mountain next, and then the first pass over the falls. Angel Falls is the highest known waterfall in the world (3700 feet), and the only way to describe the contrast between the cascading white water and the surrounding jungle vegetation is by saying that it is truly beautiful. The area near the base of the Falls is virgin Jungle, never penetrated by civilized man, according to Gonzalez-Ganteaume. It is here that the vegetation is said to be so heavy that the rays of the sun never strike the ground. The nearest third class road ends over 150 kilometers from the falls.

Diaz was photographing all this with a Crown model 8EZS 8 mm camera with zoom lens. He was using Afgacolor motion picture film, at a speed of 16 frames per second. The quality of the film varies throughout, from good to poor. The pictures were taken from the DC-3 at an altitude of about 2600 meters, about noon on a partly cloudy day.

I remember thinking, as I watched the film, that they were flying very close to the top of the mountain, which is the highest peak in the area. It seemed that the wing tip of the plane might strike the mountain when the plane banked.

The next scene clearly shows some window reflections, giving an excellent opportunity to contrast them with the alleged UFO. On the second pass over the area of the falls, the object becomes visible in the lower right hand corner of the screen. It appears to be a source of light, comparable to a small sun, more than an object of clearly defined outline. The object is intense in illumination and appears to be yellowish in color. Diaz stated that his attention was first drawn to the object by a bright flash in the jungle below. The object rises almost directly vertically, and in a few seconds, disappears into the clouds over the mountain at the top right hand corner of the screen. It seemed to be accelerating as it rose, and moved with a clearly discernable oscillating motion. It seemed to have a corona effect, which aided in masking its true shape. In relative size, the object appeared to be as large as a grain of corn at arm's length. It was in view about 4 seconds, and rose the entire height of the falls in 3.5 seconds. A rough estimate places it's vertical average velocity at about 718 m. p. h. The object is clearly visible against three different backgrounds, the jungle vegetation, clear sky and wispy white clouds. It was somewhat less bright against the sky and still less against the white clouds. The total time it is in view is less than five seconds, yet is unmistakably there.

I started to ask "is that all, Isn't there more?", and then I recalled the Utah and Montana UFO films that had the Air Force so excited a few years back. Although the UFO's in these films were visible for longer periods of time, neither film showed the motion so clearly, neither was taken from such a comparatively close distance, and neither showed any more detail. All three films show something that looked like a light source. In the Utah and Montana films the objects were moving horizontally, and in the Angel Falls film they were moving vertically. An enlargement of one frame of the Venezuelan film shows two oval shaped glowing bodies, so close that they seem to merge, one roughly double the size of the other. I was now convinced that this film would be a significant UFO document, and well worth our trouble in securing it.

We discussed the film for some time, and I finally convinced Diaz to loan it to NICAP for analysis by a prominent film scientist in California. Gonzalez-Ganteaume stated "I have been following up this UFO situation for quite a number of years, and with respect to this particular film taken by Ali Diaz, I believe it is authentic, and I believe it gives conclusive proof that these unidentified flying objects, commonly called flying saucers, do exist, and that the nature of these objects, or rather a study of the flight characteristics of these objects show that they are not from this planet, but from outer space." I was inclined to agree with him. Ladonko then added "The UFO film made by Mr. Ali Diaz seems to evidence beyond any doubt the existence of unidentified flying objects. The top speed of the object, which started at the bottom of the mountain of Auyantepuy and lost itself in the clouds in a few seconds proves it could have been no conventional aircraft. Besides, it's dazzling light was of a nature which could not be seen from any human made apparatus. That would seem to prove it was not an earth-made thing, and therefore the most logical conclusion would be that it is some spacecraft, probably from another planet or outer space."

Diaz himself was uninterested in UFO reports before this occurrence, and regarded such reports with skepticism, if not total disbelief.

Horacio informed me that he had arranged for Barben and myself to be interviewed by Mr. G. J. Schael, city editor of the popular Caracas newspaper "El Universal". Dr. Ladonko did not wish to go, so only Horacio and Ali Diaz accompanied us. After about a half hour drive, we arrived at a large building in the heart of Caracas. There was a beautiful park across the street from the building. I remember the spotless neatness of this park, and the pleasing arrangement of the tropical trees and plants. It reminded me a little of an oasis, and looked out of place in the heart of the city.

Schael presented the typical picture one has of a newspaper man as he sat behind a desk cluttered with clippings, necktie askew and sleeves rolled up. He was peering from behind thick glasses at a typewriter, and was banging away at the keys faster than than I thought humanly possible. As we entered his office, Schael smiled and rose to greet us. He and Horacio were fast friends, so Horacio introduced us. We spent a pleasant few minutes discussing various subjects and showed Schael our credentials from Washington. He called in a photographer and had him shoot a picture of all of us around his desk, as I showed him some UFO reports from the States.

We set up the film and showed it again in another office of the paper, for the benefit of some other interested reporters. They were very impressed, especially so since two "Nortamericanos" came all the way from New York to see it.

We returned to Schael's office again and sat around trading question for answer for another hour as he wrote up the story. The following is a translation of the story, which appeared in the Sunday, June 16, 1963 issue of "El Universal":

NORTHAMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES CONSIDER THAT THE SAUCERS SEEN IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS ARE FROM OTHER PLANETS

They came to get the Film Taken By Ali Diaz From An Airplane Near Auyantepuy, In Which The Strange Object Appears.

"Two representatives of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), Washington D. C., USA. came to Caracas to see the color movie taken last December by a young Venezuelan, Ali Diaz, in which a strange object appears.

Mr. Anthony J. Barben and Mr. Jose' A. Cecin of the above mentioned investigative organization were impressed with the importance of the photographic document, and expressed their belief that it was authentic.

They stated that the National Investigations Committee On Aerial Phenomena takes quite seriously the matter of the so called flying saucers and is preparing an official report of the most documented cases recorded in the past five years, and that said report will be presented to the Congress of the United States for their proper study and so that the government of that nation will inform the public of the perhaps surprising truth behind the phenomenon.

They affirmed that there is not the slightest doubt of the existence of the luminous discoidal objects, and that an impartial study made by qualified NICAP member scientists proves the fact that these objects come from outer space.

They stated that the motion picture taken by Ali Diaz would be subjected to rigorous laboratory tests and scientific analysis and that a complete report with the conclusions would be made public as soon as possible.

They affirmed that many surprising cases had been recorded in the United States, especially encounters between the flying saucers and military aircraft, but details of these cases are not made public. Recently, a flotilla of three discs descended over the surface of a reservoir and was observed by more than twenty policemen and other persons for more than 20-30 minutes.

They mentioned also that in Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay hundreds of persons have reported seeing the strange objects flying over roads and pursuing automobiles.

They concluded by saying that it is no longer a question of whether the flying saucers exist, but one of investigation to determine their origin as well as the motives behind their almost constant presence in the Earth's atmosphere.

In their visit to our editorial offices, the Northamerican representatives were accompanied by Mr. Horacio Gonzalez-Ganteaume, representative of UFO in Venezuela and one of the Venezuelans who has dedicated a great deal of time to the investigation of the subject, and author of the book "Flying Saucers Over Venezuela".

"Accompanied by Ali Diaz and Horacio Gonzalez-Ganteaume, Anthony J. Barben and Jose' A. Cecin visited the editorial offices of "El Universal". They were sent by Washington to get the movie taken near Auyantepuy, where for the first time a saucer is visible ascending from the base of the mountain. It is considered one of the most important documents to date. The visitors were received by Guillermo Jose' Schael, and later viewed the extraordinary document again. Barben and Cecin return to the U. S. Monday."

The story had a few inaccuracies, which I put correct now, to set the record straight. We stated that a purpose of the NICAP five year report would be to help lift the veil of Air Force secrecy about UFO's, and that some NICAP member scientists had signed an opinion to the effect of their belief that UFO's might be interplanetary. We said that current Air Force policy prohibited release of reports of encounters between UFO's and Military aircraft, and that in Oradell, N. J. three witnesses had seen a disc apparently land in a reservoir, and several policeman saw a group of two UFO's, which many people had reported seeing over a period of 20-30 minutes. With these particular exceptions, the story was accurate.

The next day, as we picked up the paper and read the story, we felt as if everyone in the hotel were looking at us. The picture came out well and was fairly large. We were easily recognizable. I realize we must have imagined a good deal of it, but there were some people who seemed to stare with not so friendly looks at the "Northamerican Representatives".

We had a long wait for the flight home, but we elected to check out of the hotel and wait at the airport, since we had not yet made our reservations for the return trip. We still had the story on our minds, and we thought we would be less conspicuous among the crowd at the airport. It was a lucky thing we did go, because two hours before flight time the plane was sold out.

We were really feeling elated as we boarded the jet for the homeward trip, and I felt my spirits soar as the plan lifted off the runway. A pleasant five hours later we arrived at New York International Airport. It sure was good to be home!

MY RECORD OF UFO SIGHTINGS

by Allan J. Manak, President
Cleveland UFOlogy Project

JUNE 18, 1953 -

Libya, North Africa. I was in the United States Air Force at the time, and had gone to Tripoli, Wheelus Air Force Base, with three fighter squadrons, that were stationed in Germany, at Landstuhl Airbase. We had gone there for gunnery practice.

My job, being an airman third class, was to make tow targets.

At 11:00 A.M. a close friend and myself went to the water tank for a drink. I noticed a very small pin point of silver in the sky. It was stationary. I had sun glasses on so I took them off. I could still see it although it was a little difficult. At this time I nudged my friend, Mike and told him to look to the sky as I pointed. Two or three other men noticed the object and also stared up. We watched it for about four minutes and all the while we were making checks. Such as wind, aircraft, balloons, birds and planets. Everything was negative. I immediately saw two officers coming past the tank, (they both were flying officers). I asked them if they would mind looking up as I pointed to the spot in the sky. They looked up for about ten seconds when one of the officers took a quick glance at the other, and said to me, "Oh! it's just a balloon". They started to proceed on their way when I said, "But look it's not moving, we're watching it for about five minutes now". One officer, who was doing all the talking gave me a negative gesture with his hand. We started talking to ourselves again, when Mike said, "Look, they just let a balloon go". (Meaning the tower, which was about 3/4 of a mile away, had just let a weather balloon aloft.) We then could make comparison checks. The balloon was drifting in a northern direction. The UFO was still stationary. We watched it for about another two or three minutes. By this time the crowd had grown to about fifteen airmen, when suddenly the UFO disappeared, without moving, just disappeared.

The temperature was about 110 to 115 degrees, the sky was a dull blue, no clouds, and no aircraft in the vicinity. At arms length it was the size of a pin head, and about the same color. It was about 80 degrees due south, above horizon. An estimate of the height would be about twenty to thirty thousand feet.

OCTOBER 12, 1954 -

I was at Ramstein Air Base, that is about 1/2 mile from Landstuhl Air Base where I was stationed. A friend and myself were waiting for a shuttle bus to get back to our base. The time was about 4:00 P.M. Looking toward Landstuhl Air Base we noticed an object stationary in the sky. This object was not as metallic as the Tripoli UAO. But one could see it very plainly. It was a little larger than a pin head at arms length. There were two other people waiting for a bus also. They both watched this object with us for three to four minutes, before it disappeared. The UAO was about 35 to 40 degrees due south.

MAY 14, 1955 -

While in the service together, a close friend of mine had a strange experience. He, while on guard duty, noticed a strange light that appeared to look as if it was a search light on a cloud. There were no clouds that night. I later showed him a photo of a light which he described. Staring at the photo he exclaimed, "that was it exactly!" He had never seen or heard of this photo. The next night while on guard duty I noticed a similar object near the end of the eastern runway. It seemed to move up and down. The color was a blue-green-white. It was the size of a pea at arms length. The object was about 20 degrees above the eastern horizon and seemed to be within a half mile distance of me. I watched this object about 5 minutes, when as if someone had turned off a light, it suddenly went out. When I was relieved of duty I told various people. The next day I was told by another airman that I knew, that they, (meaning the control tower where he worked) were tracking the object on three different occasions that night, and also similar objects were seen for the past three nights strange as it may seem, the next day reports came from France about three children talking to a man who claimed to have come from another world. They say the ship he walked out from was round and silver color, with a weird glow about it.

JULY 5, 1961 -

Brookpark, Ohio. It was about 1:00 A. M. in the morning and I was standing in the backyard of a friends house, which is across from mine. We were looking up at the sky as usual. I'm always talking to him about astronomy and the UFO subject. This man just does not believe in UFO's. We were also talking about the fireworks display that was put on the past evening. When all of a sudden, directly overhead, this strange light appeared. The reason I say strange, this light was different from a meteor, and also different from a cloud light. Being 1-1/2 miles from the Cleveland Hopkins Airport. I've grown accustomed to see the spot light on clouds, or in hazy weather. Besides, the cloud light is stationary. It was a clear and beautiful evening. There were no aircraft in the area at this time. It was not a balloon, because the object was traveling north-west and the wind was coming from the west. It was not a bird or insect. It was definitely not fire works.

The color was a dull hazy white, almost luminous. It traveled from 90 degrees to 45 degrees in 30 seconds, this I timed, because I lifted my watch as soon as we saw it, and again when it disappeared, at about 45 degrees above horizon. It was about 1/2 inch in diameter at arms length, and was shaped like a half-moon with a tail protruding from its middle. This is confirmed because we both described it to each other. The object did not deviate from its course. There was no sound. It was not an aircraft because I am familiar with them living so close to the airport, and being a jet mechanic for four years. It definitely was not an after-burner or jet trail from some aircraft. The object did not appear transparent for we could see it as it passed beneath the stars. I could not even guess the height. Today, my friend is not so skeptical about UFO's.

OCTOBER 24, 1963

It was a beautiful warm night and I went outside in my backyard. Took my favorite chair with my binoculars around my neck, and sat just looking at the sky. I do this most frequent. I sat facing west. The moon was at half phase and about 25 degrees above the southwestern horizon. There were three small cirrus clouds near the moon. The sky was exceptionally clear. The temperature was 69 degrees. At 9:40 E. D. S. T. about 40 degrees due west a string of objects, blue-white and very dull, (could not been seen if I wasn't looking right at it), in a formation of a large "J" in the sky about 2 inches at arms length was noticed. They were heading directly overhead and easterly when I put the binoculars on them. They looked as if they were attached to something. The whole sighting lasted about four to six seconds, (timed later). As the string of lights passed stars it seemed as if there was a body to one object, because the stars would disappear. The binoculars did not reveal anything different than the unaided eye.

Allan J. Manak